

Message Text

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45

ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CU-04 HEW-08 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

INR-10 LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-09

H-02 L-03 NSC-10 PA-03 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 RSR-01

/115 W

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R 112050 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7168

INFO CINCSO

PANCANAL

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ELAB PN

SUBJ: STUDENTS AND CLAYCO STRIKE

SUMMARY. FIRST STRIKE UNDER NEW LABOR CODE HAS DRAWN SUPPORT OF AND DEMONSTRATION BY SECONDARY STUDENTS AT NATIONAL INSTITUTE. STRIKE SUBSEQUENTLY ENDED AFTER LABOR TRIBUNAL' S RULING FAVORABLE TO LABOR. END SUMMARY.

1. MORNING APRIL 11 STUDENTS FROM NATIONAL INSTITUTE ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATION IN FAVOR OF WORKERS STRIKING AT CLAYCO, A LOCAL CEMENT PRODUCTS COMPANY. STUDENTS FORMED UP IN FRONT OF INSTITUTE NEAR CANAL ZONE AND MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THEN MARCHED INTO PANAMA CITY TO ONE OF CLAYCO' S CENTRALLY LOCATED PLANTS ON VIA ESPANA. SIGNS THEY CARRIED INCLUDED REFERENCES TO DEBATE BETWEEN MINISTERS OF LABOR AND COMMERCE OVER ENFORCEMENT OF LABOR CODE.

2. CLAYCO STRIKE IS THE FIRST UNDER NEW LABOR CODE ADOPTED LAST YEAR. IT WAS SEEN AS TEST CASE BY BOTH MANAGEMENT AND LABOR WHO SAW IT AS POTENTIALLY IMPORTANT PRECEDENT REGARDING USE OF STRIKE WEAPON AND GOVERNMENT FAVORITISM AND EQUITY.

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3. LABOR SOURCES HAVE JUST REPORTED THAT SUPREME LABOR TRIBUNAL HAS DECLARED STRIKE LEGAL AND COMPANY CONSEQUENTLY GAVE IN TO UNION' S DEMANDS. WORKERS ARE TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS TOMORROW APRIL 12.

4. THE STUDENT ASSOCIATION WITH LABOR IS INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT ESPECIALLY SINCE BOTH THE UNION AND THE LEADERS OF THE STUDENT DEMONSTRATION ARE KNOWN TO BE DEMOCRATIC AND ANTI- COMMUNIST. SAYRE

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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